

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD BEFORE THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
FEBRUARY 18, 2009**

A public hearing was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

Call to Order. Presiding Officer Mayor William J. Schmitt called the hearing to order at 6:45 p.m.

Roll Call.

Mayor William J. Schmitt	Present
Council members:	
John Schroeder	Present
David Prechtel	Present
Thomas Schmidt	Present
Ambrose 'Butch' Schitter	Absent
Kevin Manley	Present
Randall Buchta	Present
Raymond Howard	Absent
City Attorney Sandra Hemmerlein	Present
Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm	Present

Clerk-Treasurer Juanita Boehm announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. Five of the seven council members were in attendance which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the hearing.

Pledge. Mayor Schmitt then invited the Boy Scouts and all others in attendance to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Purpose. Mayor Schmitt said the purpose of the hearing was to receive public input concerning Ordinance No. 2008-34 that revises the electric rates and charges.

A notice appeared in the Herald on February 4, 2009. A notice was also posted at City Hall and faxed to the news media.

General Manager of Utilities Gerald 'Bud' Hauersperger reported that at last month's meeting he distributed copies of the electric rate study that was prepared by Umbaugh. Hauersperger then introduced Umbaugh representative Bob Clifford who summarized the rate study report. Clifford stated the rate study was started in 2008 at the request of the Utility Service Board and management. The study suggested an 11.3% increase in the base rates in 2009 which varies by customer class.

Mayor Schmitt asked what the dollar increase would be for the average user in the City. Clifford said for a residential customer it would go up about \$9.00 or \$10.00 per month.

Schmitt then asked for public comments. None were received. Schmitt then said the City is sensitive about an increase under these economic times but we cannot operate at a loss. We have switched to a new provider and our costs have gone up.

Clifford explained how the tracker works and how it affects ones bill.

City Attorney Hemmerlein said the ordinance includes for 2009 a \$60,000.00 credit per month through the power and energy adjustment clause that will help lessen the cost increase.

Hauersperger said the monthly increase for a typical residential customer based on 1000 KWH's would be \$11.08 if we did nothing; \$7.60 with the rate change; and \$5.71 with the credit applied through the power and energy adjustment clause.

Mayor Schmitt then asked if there were any other comments. No other comments were received.

Thereafter, a **motion** was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to close the public hearing. The motion carried 5-0 and the hearing closed at 6:59 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved _____ with X without corrections or clarification this 18th day of March, 2009.

Mayor William J. Schmitt
Presiding Officer

Attest:

Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer

Margaret A. Kress, Recording Secretary